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1917

THE MESSAGE OF OLD GLORY

BY
GEORGE A. SAHLIN

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OLD GLORY

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DEDICATED TO THE PATRIOTIC
MEN AND WOMEN OF AMERICA

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THE CALL OF LIBERTY

Born in the womb of the spirit eternal,
Liberty lives in the hearts of mankind;
Dreaming in righteousness of life supernal,
Groping in darkness that dream-life to find.
Deep in the hearts of the mothers of races,
Deep in the souls of the fathers of all,
Dwells there a spirit that shines in their faces—
Patriots, everywhere, answering the call.
What is this call that the whole world is heeding?
Whence came this quick'ning, with brave hearts aflame?
'Tis Liberty calling, most urgently pleading
For action, for vict'ry in God's holy name.

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A Foreword

A servant of the Spirit have I been, lo,
these many years,
And never once have I believed the Christ
to teach
However monstrous be the wrong that
raised its head
And cried—"Make way, that I may reign
supreme,"
It should, unresisted, be allowed to gain
its mark
And slay, without compunction, all that
is divine
Within the human heart of God-aspiring
man.
Give ear, O, ye peoples, to the message
of Old Glory.

THE MESSAGE

The Cross, appealing 'midst the babel of
all earthly woe,
Doth show the way that human feet must
tread, e'er man, on common ground
Be raised in understanding as to why his
fellows, here below
Should pray—"Thy will be done on earth
as it is done in heav'n."

'Tis simply this,—the hungry feed, the
naked clothe,
The sickly visit, the dead raise up unto
new life
That earth again should be renewed in
spirit;—
That the lowly, with new courage pro-
claim, "The Lord is here."

The Lord is here; and battling for His
own, is here
Upon a soil made sacred by the sacrifice
of those
Who, in an ancient day, led by a Wash-
ington
Implanted a new order for the good of
man.

And with the Cross, its teaching true that
man for man must die
If, ever, from the ashes of his hopes a
new day might arise,
The Stars and Stripes unto the breezes
pure, 'neath heav'n's bluest sky,
And flaming stars, were flung in prophesy
sublime;—

That henceforth, guided by the love of a great heart,
Protection should afford to all;— to every soul
Who would on high lift up its folds, that never,
In the days to be, should liberty from the earth expire.

The Cross, the Flag, they two are one; for from the Cross
There came a light as never seen on earth before;
And from the Flag a spirit, born of Him who died that,
In righteousness, on earth mankind be free.

Ah, what are flags but the expression of
a faith
That in the fiery crucible of life is
tried;
Proud shadows of a dream, refined as
tho' by fire,
Proclaiming hopes that as yet are unat-
tained.

And what is patriotism, but a love still
incomplete
That seeks to hold and spread a faith im-
perfect,—yet
So far as mankind hath attained, without
the urge of heav'n,
Of brotherhood divine, leads on to earth-
ly glory.

Yea, e'en the Flag we love, baptized in
fire and blood,
By Providence sustained, without a stain
victorious,
Anew must lead a mighty host upon a
foreign soil
To victory; — a victory that God alone
can grant.

They unto whom the Cross hath precious
been—
To whom Old Glory now enshrines with-
in its folds
The aspirations of a fighting, dying world,
let them
The ravages of hell oppose with life and
limb, with heart and soul.

Oppose with treasure such as hell cannot
afford;
Not gold alone, but all that heart and
brain can give,—
Such treasure as the Christ revealed
when dying on the Cross,
To lose one's life is life to win, the broth-
erhood to gain.

Among the flags on foreign soil, amid the
flags of other lands,
Beside the flag of Lafayette, in conflict
dire,
The Stars and Stripes alone appears as
from them all
Constant to its dream of liberty, and
brotherhood divine.

The Cross, ah, yes, the Cross comes after
the Flag has cheered
The wavering heart to battle, before
man's fading eyes is held
Reminding him of work that's been well
done, the promise of a
Life and peace unending in the silent
spheres beyond.

The Flag it doth religion teach, for unity
it flies,
In face of every foe it hath a message
true;
For every one who loves the Christ that
message is—
"To its ideals be true, keep it afloat, de-
fend it to the end."

ENVOY

God gave you America, its Washington
and Lafayette,
Its Lincoln, and God gave you victory
For human right divine in its last word;
God gave you Old Glory, and a Christ
who, by example,
Calls on every soul to bear that flag, un-
stained, to every battle front
Where hell would have its will and Christ
o'erthrow.

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